

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing from a recording
medium a plurality of image data which has been
5 recorded in a plurality of independent areas on the
recording medium and specified so as to be reproduced
in predetermined order;

a memory for storing the image data reproduced by
said reproducing means;

10 memory control means for controlling a writing and
a read-out of said image data into/from said memory;
and

mode setting means for switching on the basis of
positions of said plurality of areas on said recording
15 medium, a first mode in which the image data recorded
in said plurality of areas is reproduced by said
reproducing means in order different from said
predetermined order and written in said memory and the
image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is
20 read out from said memory in said predetermined order
by said memory control means and a second mode in which
the image data recorded in said plurality of areas is
reproduced in said predetermined order by said
reproducing means and written in said memory and the
25 image data reproduced from said plurality of areas is
read out from said memory in said predetermined order
by said memory control means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said reproducing means reproduces TOC data indicative
of the positions of said plurality of areas on said
recording medium from said recording medium, and said
5 mode setting means switches said first and second modes
on the basis of said TOC data reproduced by said
reproducing means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
10 said predetermined order is specified in accordance
with said TOC data.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said reproducing means has a pickup mechanism for
15 seeking on said recording medium and reproducing said
image data, and said mode setting means further
switches said first and second modes on the basis of
the positions of said plurality of areas and a seeking
time between said plurality of areas by said pickup
20 mechanism.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said mode setting means further switches said first and
second modes on the basis of an amount of image data
15 which can be stored in said memory.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said mode setting means discriminates whether the image data can be continuously read out from said memory in said predetermined order in the case where said image data is reproduced in said first mode or not on the basis of the positions of said plurality of areas and switches said first and second modes on the basis of a result of said discrimination.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mode setting means further switches said first and second modes on the basis of program data indicative of a reproducing procedure of said image data from said plurality of areas and the positions of said plurality of areas.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined order is specified in accordance with said program data.

9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reproducing means reproduces said program data from said recording medium.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory is also used as a shockproof memory.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said image data has been encoded by an MPEG system and
said memory stores said encoded image data.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 said recording medium includes a disc medium.

13. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said recording medium includes an optical disc medium
of a zone CAV system.

10

14. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing a plurality of
image data which has been recorded in a plurality of
independent areas on a disk-shaped recording medium and
15 specified so as to be reproduced in predetermined
order, from said disk-shaped recording medium by using
a pickup mechanism;

a memory for storing the image data reproduced by
said reproducing means;

20 memory control means for reading out the image
data stored in said memory in said predetermined order;
and

control means for controlling whether the image
data recorded in said plurality of areas is reproduced
25 in order different from said predetermined order and
written in said memory or not, on the basis of position
information indicative of positions of said plurality

of areas on said disk-shaped recording medium, a capacity of said memory, and a seeking time between said plurality of areas by said pickup mechanism.